

Sierra Nevada Conservancy-Progress Report

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control River and Coastal Protection Act of 2008 (Proposition 84)

Grantee Name: Student Conservation Association

Project title: Inyo Forest Restoration Project

SNC Reference Number: SNC 070005 **Submittal Date:** 5/1/10

Report Preparer: Jay Watson **Phone #:** 510-832-1966

Check one:

☐ **6-Month Progress Report**

☒ **Final Report**

6-Month Progress Reports should reflect the previous six months. **Final Reports** should reflect the entire grant period.

A. Progress Report Summary: SCA recruited and deployed a 6-person forest restoration team to the Inyo National Forest. While on the forest, the restoration team undertook and accomplished watershed restoration and site improvement projects, primarily working to reduce soil and erosion impacts associated with improper or illegal OHV use. Specifically, the team focused on watershed restoration, reducing soil erosion, improving water quality, promoting sustainable recreation, OHV route removal and restoration, and creating a clear off-highway trail system with fewer soil and watershed impacts.

B. Deliverables or Outcomes completed during this Reporting Period or Milestones Achieved: (Include specific information, such as public meetings held, agency participation, partnerships developed, or acres mapped, treated or restored.)

The SCA Restoration Team was on the forest for a little less than three months, working two, 10-day hitches each month. During these hitches, the team accomplished the following specific items.

Total Hours of Restoration Accomplished: 1,491

Vertical Mulch Plantings in OHV routes: 463

Dispersed Campsites Repaired/ Maintained: 75

Length of Routes Restored: 5,943 feet

Area Restored: 21.47 acres

C. Challenges or Opportunities Encountered: (Please describe what has worked and what hasn't; include any solutions you initiated to resolve problems. If your project is not on schedule, please explain why here.)

We find that Sierra Nevada Conservancy funding is best used if supplemented with other funding. Funding limitations, such as those on food, require a grantee to find other funds, particularly if the project being funded is field-based. Additionally, documentation requirements make reimbursement difficult for items that do not have receipts, such as training costs or recruiting costs amortized across a larger program.

D. Unanticipated Successes Achieved: (Please describe any additional successes beyond completing scheduled tasks or meeting scheduled milestones.)

The SCA team was introduced to and got to know several communities of the Eastern Sierra Nevada. They also had an opportunity to explore the Eastern Sierra, visiting places such as Devils Postpile National Monument, Bodie State Park, and the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest.

E. Compare Actual Costs to Budgeted Costs: (Please refer to your grant agreement to list your deliverables/budget categories and budgeted costs compared to actual costs incurred during this reporting period in the table below.)

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	Budgeted SNC Dollars	Actual Dollars
Intern Expenses	\$26,850	\$8,974
Project Leader	\$14,710	\$14,739.06
Intern Housing, Utilities	\$4,000	\$1,638.42
Training, Field Equipment, Supplies	\$12,000	\$12,000
Administration	\$440	\$440
GRAND TOTAL	\$58,000	37,791.55

Explanation: (if needed)

Intern costs have been successfully accounted for and documented in part: travel to internship, living allowances, etc. However, we are having difficulty adequately documenting other expenses associated with interns for activities not paid directly to the intern. Things like recruiting, training, processing living allowances, etc. Finally, housing costs were low because the team spent the entire summer camped out.

F. Do you have information to report on the project-specific Performance Measures for your project? (If so, please list the Performance Measures below and describe your progress.)

G. Were there any other relevant materials produced under the terms of this Agreement that are not a part of the budgeted deliverables? If so, please attach copies. (Include digital photos, maps, media coverage of project, or other work products.)

Next Steps: (Work anticipated in the next 6 months, including location and timing of any scheduled events related to the project.)

Not applicable. The Restoration Team has concluded its project.

Please Complete this Section for FINAL Report ONLY

Capacity-Building Results and Collaboration and Cooperation with Stakeholders:

(What partnerships did you initiate or strengthen as a result of this project? How did they affect the project outcome? If applicable, how did this grant increase your organization's capacity? What is your plan to sustain this increase?)

The BLM Bishop Office became more fully aware of SCA's restoration capacity and programming and have initiated a partnership with SCA as well. The funding from SNC allowed us to further develop our partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the California State Parks OHV Grant Program.

Description of Project Accomplishments:

1. Most Significant Accomplishment

Describe in one concise, well-written paragraph, the most significant accomplishment that resulted from this grant.

The SCA Inyo Forest Restoration Team consisted of a team of six interns/volunteers who spent nine weeks in the field working to repair OHV-related damage to public lands on the Inyo NF. The Inyo Team worked in partnership with the Bishop Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management. During the project, the SCA team removed close to two full miles of damaging OHV routes and restored over 10 acres of land.

2. WOW Factor

If applicable, please describe anything that happened as a result of the project or during the project that is particularly impressive.

Upon project completion, the Jamie Weleber, Project Leader said the following:

"This season's Inyo crew hit the ground running and never looked back. With a seemingly never ending amount of work in front of us we took our four hitches and accomplished more than anybody thought possible. But what struck me most was not the amount of work this crew accomplished, instead it was the pride they put into it. That pride led to some of the highest quality work I've ever seen. This season required learning and flexibility on every ones part. Most of the members had never done something like this before. I'm immensely proud of each and every one of them. They gave me their best and more importantly, they let their guard down and really formed a close-knit, functional community. The 9 weeks I got to spend with IIsak, Cy, Ashley, Scott, and Fahimeh were chock full of blood, sweat, tears, and fun; I loved every minute of it.

3. Design and Implementation

When considering the design and implementation of this project, what lessons did you learn that might help other grantees implement similar work?

Funding a project in partnership with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is best undertaken with supplemental funding that can be used to pay for items are unallowable costs to SNC, such as food. The same can be said for costs that do not have associated receipts: such as recruiting and field support.

4. Indirect Impact

Please describe any indirect benefits of the project such as information that has been developed as a result of the project is being used by several other organizations to improve decision-making, or a conservation easement funded by this grant that encouraged other landowners in the area to have conservation easements on their property.

5. Collaboration and Conflict Resolution

If you worked in collaboration or cooperation with other organizations or institutions, describe those arrangements and their importance to the project. Also, describe if you encountered conflict in the project and how you dealt with it, or if there was conflict avoided as a result of the project.

6. Capacity-Building

SNC is interested in both the capacity of your organization, as well as local and regional capacity. Please describe the overall health of your organization including

areas in need of assistance. SNC is interested in the strength and involvement of your board, significant changes to your staff, size and involvement of membership. In addition, describe how your project improved capabilities of partners, or the larger community.

SCA has weathered the economic downturn. While a challenging year or more is behind us, SCA has emerged from this period stronger and better equipped to adapt to such downturns. Moreover, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided critically needed project funding.

7. Challenges

Did the project face internal or external challenges? How were they addressed? Describe each challenge and any actions that you took to address it. Was there something that SNC did or could have done to assist you? Did you have to change any of your key objectives in response to conditions “on the ground”?

8. Photographs

Grantees are strongly encouraged to submit photos, slides or digital images whenever possible. These images will be used for SNC publications such as annual reports or on the website. Please make sure you clearly identify location, activity, and your project with each submitted image. Images will be credited to the submitting organization, unless specified otherwise.

9. Post Grant Plans

What are the post-grant plans for the project if it does not conclude with the grant? Include a description of the following (if applicable): (1) Changes in operations or scope; (2) Replication or use of findings; (3) Names of other organizations you expect to involve; (4) Plans to support the project financially, and; (5) Communication plans?

Project is concluded.

10. Post Grant Contact

Who can be contacted a few years from now to follow up on the project? Please provide name and contact information.

SCA: Jay Watson. 510-832-1966
USFS: Todd Ellsworth. 760-873-2457

SNC-approved Performance Measures: (Please list each Performance Measure for your Project, as identified in your Grant Agreement, and the results/outcomes.)